

Conservation Connections



St. Louis Regional Newsletter

Missouri Department of Conservation

August 2011

Treemendous! Great St. Louis Tree Hunt

by Perry Eckhardt, Urban Forester



Celebrating
Year of the Forest
2011

The United Nations has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests, which reminds us to reflect on all of the positive things that trees do for us individually as well as for society. Within various communities, we promote many of the urban forest's ecologic, sociologic, and economic virtues. But what foresters sometimes forget to describe is the fun that trees can provide. Luckily, the Missouri Botanical Garden has provided the public an exciting opportunity to see and learn about many of the St. Louis metropolitan area's notable trees through the "Treemendous! Great St. Louis Tree Hunt."

The Hunt's organizers selected thirty trees according to various criteria such as size, historic significance, unique/unusual form, and to provide a species diversity over a wide geographic range. From the Hunt's website, you can download a guide that provides geographic positioning system (GPS) coordinates and hints to their locations. Each tree is denoted with a sign that can be scanned with a smart-phone. Once scanned, the hunter(s) will learn more about that tree. The first one thousand people to provide evidence of finding fifteen of the thirty trees will receive an extensive prize pack! Also, anyone that finds fifteen of the trees will be entered into a

drawing for a fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). The Tree Hunt information can be found at: <http://www.mobot.org/treemendous/treehunt/default.asp>

One of the thirty trees (tree number 12) is located at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. It can be found along the Broken Ridge Trail, northeast of the main Visitor's Center. Note that our tree is a native species that is typically found on north and east facing slopes and ranges throughout most of Missouri. The wood is used for furniture, flooring, veneer, interior finishing, railroad ties, posts, general construction, and fuel. It flowers in May, and the fruit, which forms in late summer and fall feeds various wildlife species. This beautiful tree can attain a height of 100 feet and is known for its attractive smooth, striped bark. Come for a hike and discover the species of Tree number Twelve!



Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

August 2011

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom

13 The Naturalist is In!

Saturday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(All Ages) Walk-ins are welcome. It's our last summer session and the naturalist is here just to answer your questions or take a short walk. (No reservations required.)



13 Sunset Over Columbia Bottom

Saturday 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

(Ages 6 & Up) Columbia Bottom Conservation Area is big sky country in North County, and the sunsets here can be spectacular. We will help you discover nature at night as everyone ventures out for their evening activities. Meet at the Slough Exploration Station and watch the setting sun as we walk toward the cropland overlook where we'll watch the last rays disappear below the horizon. We will continue by the light of the full moon to the wetland boardwalk and viewing blind while we listen to the calling of frogs and toads and watch the flashing of fireflies as we return to the Slough Exploration Station. Meet at the Slough Parking lot – about four miles from the front entrance. (Reservations begin July 30.)

29 Discover Nature Women: River Treks - Gear Up!

Monday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

(Women 14 & Up) If you're looking for the opportunity to enjoy good hiking, here's your chance! Team up with other women to learn hiking skills and discover new trails. Sign up for just one or all of the hikes listed below. During our initial meeting, you'll learn what to expect and how to prepare for the adventures ahead. Participants 17 or younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. (Reservations begin August 15.)

- September 3, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. = Columbia Bottom CA
- September 17, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. = Saint Stanislaus CA

Can't make our hike times or "Gear Up" meeting? No worries, call us and we'll send you maps of each hike with a recommended gear list so you can try it on your own!



Look What's Coming in September!

3 Columbia Bottom Youth Dove Clinic & Hunt

Saturday 8 a.m. - sunset

(Ages 11 - 15 with Adult) Experience is the key to learning. So, how do youths who are Hunter Ed. certified gain hunting experience?

Attend our Youth Dove Clinic & Hunt to find out. In the classroom, participants and their sponsors learn dove biology, management, and hunting methods. Youths then practice shooting in the field before being allowed to hunt. Sponsors age 18 and up must also be Hunter Ed. certified if born on or after January 1, 1967. Only youths are allowed to hunt. If the child does not have a sponsor, let us know. We will work to provide one.

(Registration ends August 11.)



24 & 25 Discover Nature Families: 3rd Annual Confluence Campout!

Saturday - Sunday Time TBD

(All Ages) Families have fun learning together, especially when learning skills they can use for a lifetime! Join us for our outdoor skill extravaganza.

Registration packets will be available August 19. Deadline for registration is Friday, September 16. Your registration is not complete until we have confirmed receipt of your completed form. Let us know if you need to borrow a tent. Spaces and tents are limited. So hurry!



August 2011

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

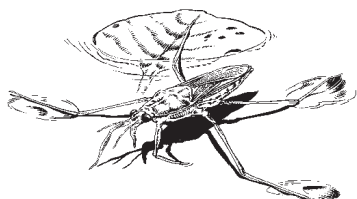
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch

3 Pictures with the Sun

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 - 12) Do you ever wish you were a great artist? With just a dried flower or leaf and a special piece of paper, you can be. Join us as Mother Nature helps us to create beautiful pictures with the sun. (Reservations begin July 20.)



10 Aquatic Adventure

Wednesday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 - 12) What could be more fun on one of the "Dog Days of August" than to see what cool things live in an aquatic habitat? Come and learn about an aquatic food chain and how we can affect it. Also learn what conservation practices can help enhance the health of an aquatic environment. There will be plenty of time to actually interact with a real aquatic environment and see what neat critters are prey and predators in it. Dress appropriately for the weather and netting aquatic critters along the shore of the Busch Refuge Lake. All necessary equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin July 27.)

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

Aaron Jungbluth 1,250 hours

12 Discover Nature Women: Canoeing & Fishing The Meramec River

Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(Ages 10 & Up) Nothing beats a summer float trip! Better yet, nothing beats a summer float with a group of naturalists to help guide and discover nature on the river! Join us and your fellow women outdoor enthusiasts for a float trip on the Meramec River near Eureka between Pacific Palisades Conservation Area and the Allenton Access. This 7 mile stretch of river is full of fascinating nature to explore and discover. We'll learn about aquatic ecosystems, flooding, erosion events, how wildlife survive in a changing river world and the role that we all can play in protecting our aquatic resources. All participants must be good swimmers and have at least one participant over 18 years of age per canoe. Please also be prepared with snacks, lunch, water, and sun protection. Pre-float instructions will be provided once registered. (Reservations begin July 29.)

27 Reptiles of Marais Temps Clair CA

Saturday 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Families) A warm summer morning is a good time to see turtles and snakes basking in the sun in their native habitat. Several species of turtles and snakes can usually be seen during a summer hike at Marais Temps Clair. Join us for a 2 ½ mile hike on the levees to view reptiles and other native wildlife of eastern St. Charles County. Learn the identifying characteristics of the native turtles and snakes. You will also have a chance to view them through spotting scopes provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation. (Reservations begin August 15.)



Rockwoods Reservation

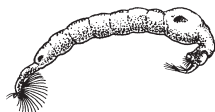
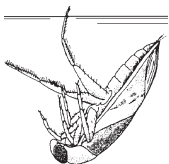
August 2011

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/rockwoods-reservation>



8 Aquatic Adventure

Monday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 - 12) What could be more fun on one of the "Dog Days of August" than to see what cool things live in an aquatic habitat? Come and learn about an aquatic food chain and how we can affect it. Also learn what conservation practices can help enhance the health of an aquatic environment. There will be plenty of time to actually interact with a real aquatic environment and see what neat critters are prey and predators in it. Dress appropriately for the weather and netting aquatic critters along the shore of the Rockwoods woodland pond. All necessary equipment will be provided.

(Reservations begin July 25.)

11 Discover Nature Women: Canoeing & Fishing The Meramec River

Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(Ages 10 & Up) Nothing beats a summer float trip! Better yet, nothing beats a summer float with a group of naturalists to help guide and discover nature on the river! Join us and your fellow women outdoor

enthusiasts for a float trip on the Meramec River near Eureka between Pacific Palisades Conservation Area and the Allenton Access. This seven-mile stretch of river is full of fascinating nature to explore and discover. We'll learn about aquatic ecosystems, flooding, erosion events, how wildlife survive in a changing river world and the role that we all can play in protecting our aquatic resources. All participants must be good swimmers and have at least one participant over 18 years of age per canoe. Please also be prepared with snacks, lunch, water and sun protection. Pre-float instructions will be provided once registered.

(Reservations begin July 28.)



Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

24 Tree ID

Wednesday 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

(Ages 8 & Up) How do you tell one species of tree from another? It's not as difficult as you might think. Join us at Forest Park in the 70-acre Kennedy Forest. You'll learn several common species of trees, and then some, while working your way through a leaf maze to correctly ID trees. Bring your water bottle and dress for the weather. Meet at the Kennedy Forest Outdoor Classroom & Pavilion. (Reservations begin August 3.)

This publication is produced locally. Please e-mail us at ConservationConnections@mdc.mo.gov with questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

August 2011

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

For program reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D. Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch>

10, 11 Basic Shotgun

Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & Up) This program is designed for new shotgun shooters. Our primary emphasis will be safety as we cover shotgun types, ammunition, gun fit, shooting stance, lead, and proper technique. On the first night, class will be held in the classroom at the Busch CA main office. The Thursday portion will be held at the shooting range for some live-fire experience. You may bring your own shotgun or we can supply the firearms. (Reservations begin July 11.)

17 Bow Tuning

Wednesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & Up accompanied by an adult) This class offers students the opportunity to learn bow tuning from a professional. We will cover such things as: nock set position, vertical rest position, horizontal rest position, setting fletching clearance, paper tuning, and more. This class will be held in the classroom at the Busch Conservation Area office building. (Reservations begin July 18.)

25 Discover Hunting: Dove Clinic

Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & Up) This is a program for hunters who want to learn or improve the skills and techniques of hunting doves. This is a classroom clinic where we will discuss habitat, zone of fire, shotguns, chokes, ammunition, size and type of shot to use, clothing, and hunting techniques with an emphasis on safety. This class will be held in the classroom at the Busch Conservation Area office building. (Reservations begin July 25.)



27 Discover Hunting - Wingshooting

Saturday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 14 & Up) Brush up on your wingshooting skills to get ready for dove and waterfowl seasons. We will discuss proper shooting technique, shotgun fit (it would be beneficial to bring your own shotgun so we can check the fit), ammunition, size and type of shot, proper choke selection, and more. This class **IS NOT** designed for the novice, or beginner shooter. You should know how to safely and properly operate a shotgun before attending this class. This class will take place at the Busch Shooting Range. (Reservations begin July 28.)



For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at www.mdc.mo.gov and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the right of the page.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

For program reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges>

3 Using Trail Cameras

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 8 & Up) Have you ever wondered what walks by your tree stand, hunting blind, or viewing area when you are not there? In this class we will cover trail camera types and brands, where to set up, how to use and how to apply the information gained from your photos. You may bring your own cameras and photos if you like. (Reservations begin July 3.)

6 Youth .22 Rifle

Saturday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 11 - 15) Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin July 6.)

11 & 13 Basic Handgun

Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 & Up) This program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We will start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Equipment and ammunition will be provided. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin July 11.)

15 & 16 Basics of the Modern Sporting Rifle

Monday & Tuesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 18 & Up) Through classroom and range time, this course is designed to provide beginners a hands-on introduction to the safe handling and proper techniques of modern sporting rifle (AR type) shooting. Students will learn rules for safe gun handling at home, in the field and on the range; rifle actions, parts and operation, ammunition, shooting fundamentals and cleaning the rifle. (Reservations begin July 15.)

20 Trigger Time – Shotgun

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 & Up) Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. The shooting coach will observe shooting by each individual participant and offer suggestions on proper gun fit, position, mount, vision, and movement – all as may be relevant. Participants will be required to provide their own 12 gauge shotgun and ammunition (two boxes of No. 8 shot). (Reservations begin July 20.)

20 Introduction to Trapshooting

Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & Up) In this program we'll cover the basics of competitive trapshooting. Topics will include appropriate guns and ammunition, rules of the game, etiquette on the field, and participants will shoot a round for score. Firearms and ammunition will be provided, or you may bring your own shotgun. (Reservations begin July 20.)

23 & 25 Wingshooting, Part 1 and Part 2

Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & Up) We will shoot a variety of practice shots to simulate crossing, passing, or incoming birds with the use of our portable trap machines. Participants will provide their own shotgun and ammunition for this program. Be prepared to shoot 2 - 4 boxes of ammunition (7 ½ or 8 shot size only) for each session. Shotgun shooting experience is highly recommended for this program. (Reservations begin July 23.)

27 Youth Waterfowl Clinic

Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(Ages 9 - 15) In cooperation with Delta Waterfowl, we will offer a day of learning about hunting waterfowl. Topics include waterfowl identification, regulations, proper shotgun and ammunition, and more. After a break for lunch, we'll shoot over decoys, have some fun duck and goose calling, and watch retriever demonstrations. (Reservations begin July 27.)



VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

Gwen Morris	750 hours
Dan Ahlvers	500 hours
Ron Weiss	500 hours

For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at www.mdc.mo.gov and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the right of the page.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Building hours: Tuesday through Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday: Closed

Area and trails: Open seven days a week 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time.

10 Who Lives in a Tree?

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) A tree is home to many different animals. Join the naturalist on a nature walk and find different things that come from trees and find different animals that live in trees. Then get ready to make like a squirrel and play a game.....outside of course! The program will end with an interactive story and nature craft. Siblings are welcome! (Reservations begin July 27.)

12 Discover Nature Families: Tree I.D. for the Family

Friday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Families ages 7 & Up) Don't go barkin' up the wrong tree with a false I.D. Enjoy a relaxing hike around Tanglevine Trail where we will work in family groups to identify trees by their bark, leaves, size, and even smell. Dress for the weather and bring comfortable shoes. (Reservations begin July 29.)

16 Flashy Fliers

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 & Up) Do you know how much fun it is to chase fireflies on a summer evening? It's even more fun when you know about their astonishing lives. Come help us celebrate these "flashy fliers" with activities and crafts. (Reservations begin August 2.)

18 Nature's Niche: Forest Exploration

Thursday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 50 & Up) What is a forest and why do we need them? Come celebrate the International Year of Forests by getting to know some common Missouri trees. We will cover everything from forest significance to proper tree identification. A short hike will follow the presentation, so don't forget your comfortable shoes. (Reservations begin August 4.)



VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

Jennifer Bollinger	300 hours
Larry Burtelow	1,500 hours
Pamela Hutchins	200 hours
Dietrich Mueller	2,500 hours
John Wattler	1,500 hours

Sorry!

We apologize to Shirley Fitzgibbons for incorrectly reporting her Volunteer Milestones. Shirley has donated 1900 hours to conservation.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center For reservations call (314) 301-1500

August 2011

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with five days notice. From I-44 take Lindbergh (Route 61/67) to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road to Cragwold Road then one mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder

20 Discover Hunting: Hunting Workshop

Saturday 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(Ages 10 & Up) Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and trap. Take life by the antlers, duck call, or trap at Powder Valley's Hunting Workshop! Visit with several of Missouri's hunting and trapping organizations: Missouri Trappers Association, Ducks Unlimited, Big Game Hunters, and Quality Deer Management Association. Booths will be located in the lobby for you to ask questions and gather important information to help make your hunting and trapping experiences more effective and enjoyable. In addition, four special speakers will present in the auditorium: 9:30 - 10:15 Duck Hunting; 10:15 - 11:00 Trapping; 11:00 - 11:45 Taxidermy; and 11:45 - 12:30 Game Calls. (Reservations begin immediately.)



Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit - Water Color by Tom Bose

Tom Bose recently retired from the Missouri Department of Conservation to pursue his love of wildlife art. He works primarily in watercolor but also uses acrylics, colored pencils and ink. Tom draws inspiration from photographs in **Missouri Conservationist** magazine, from hikes along the Katy Trail, and on walks around his cabin and 35 wooded acres in Miller County. By sharing his art, Tom hopes others will treasure the priceless beauty and breathtaking colors of Missouri's natural world.

